



Rosemary Westbrook
Director of Housing

Please reply to: Alastair Reeves
Direct Line / Voicemail: 020 7641 2254
Email: areeves1@westminster.gov.uk

Date: 24th February 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

**CONSULTATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW BYELAWS FOR GOOD
RULE AND GOVERNMENT**

**PROPOSAL TO PREVENT ROUGH SLEEPING AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF
FREE REFRESHMENT (COMMONLY KNOWN AS SOUP RUNS) IN A
DESIGNATED PART OF THE VICTORIA AREA OF THE CITY**

Westminster City Council is proposing to make Byelaws which, if implemented, will prevent rough sleeping and the distribution of free refreshment in a designated area. A copy of the draft Byelaws is attached which includes a map showing the proposed designated area.

The council has been concerned for many years about the impact that rough sleeping and the distribution of free refreshment has on local residents and businesses in the Victoria area of the City. The council believes that homeless people should make use of building based services (via the commissioned street outreach teams), rather than living rough and making use of soup runs. In addition, the council and its voluntary sector partners are clear that soup runs are detrimental to rough sleepers in the long run and prolong the length of time that people spend on the streets. To that end we work with a number of third sector partners to help homeless people take advantage of alternative provisions, including the provision of shelter, sustenance, health facilities and assistance into long term accommodation, employment and training.

Our proposals will not prevent rough sleeping or the provision of refreshment elsewhere in Westminster (or, for that matter, elsewhere in London). The council has to achieve a balance between the interests and concerns of the homeless people and rough sleepers on the one hand, and the interests and concerns of local residents and businesses on the other. The council believes that these proposals constitute a proportionate response to the conflict that exists in the designated area.



If you would like to make any written representations either in support of or against our proposals, please write to: Rough Sleeping Team, Westminster City Council, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP, or email areeves1@westminster.gov.uk. Please ensure that any response is received by close of business on Friday 25th March 2011. It is important to note that if representations are not received by this date (for whatever reason) they may not be taken into account as part of this consultation process. Alternatively please complete the questionnaire attached to this letter and return it to the council by the deadline.

We would welcome your opinion on either or both of the proposals set out in the draft Byelaws. In particular, if you disagree with any of the proposals, it would be helpful if you would set out the reasons for your objection. You may also want to comment on the extent of the proposed designated area. We cannot increase the designated area without carrying out a further consultation exercise, but we can reduce the area if it is thought to be too large.

Any response to this consultation will in due course be used by officers to compile a report to Full Council (via our General Purposes Committee). If you would like your response to be treated in confidence, then for legal reasons it will not form part of a public report and will not be taken into account. We can however report on the overall number of representations that are received either in support of or opposed to our proposals. We will assume that your response can be included in the report unless you indicate otherwise.

If you do not want to disclose either your name and/or your address, we will respect your wishes. However, you need to bear in mind that your response may be given less weight or might even be excluded altogether, depending on the circumstances. However, we will still be able to use your response as part of the statistical response referred to in the previous paragraph.

A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding the proposed Byelaw application is available via the council's website:

www.westminster.gov.uk/roughsleeping

Further information concerning these proposed Byelaws can be obtained by emailing areeves1@westminster.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Rosemary Westbrook
Director of Housing



QUESTIONNAIRE

**Please return the questionnaire by post, in person or via email by close of business on Friday 25th March 2011 to:
Rough Sleeping Team, Westminster City Council, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP
Email: areeves1@westminster.gov.uk**

	YES	NO
Do you agree with the proposals relating to rough sleeping?		
Do you agree with the proposals relating to the distribution of free refreshment?		

AGREE

If you agree with the proposals relating to rough sleeping, please tell us why in the box below.

If you agree with the proposals relating to the distribution of free refreshment, please tell us why in the box below.

Questionnaire continued overleaf



DISAGREE

If you disagree with the proposals relating to rough sleeping, please tell us why in the box below.

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If you disagree with the proposals relating to the distribution of free refreshment, please tell us why in the box below.

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DESIGNATED BOUNDARY

Do you have any comments on the extent of the designated area?

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End.